

WASHINGTON, D.C. Today, Congressman Sanford Bishop, a Member of the House Appropriations Committee announced the fiscal year 2006 Department of Defense Appropriations Act could potentially mean more than \$30 million for defense related projects in Georgia's Second Congressional District. This includes a \$22 million contract for the XM8 weapons project that Columbus's H&K is a leading contender for and in upwards of \$5 million in continued funding for the TECT Corporation in Thomasville, GA, for their subcontract work on the Boeing C-17 transport.

"Not only are some of our nation's finest military bases located in Southwest Georgia, but we are also home to some of the nation's most outstanding defense contractors. This is why they are so competitive for government contracts and this is why this money will come back to our district," said Congressman Bishop.

The Department of Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 2863) provides \$408.9 billion, including \$45.3 billion in emergency spending for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Funding in this bill includes: \$84.13 billion for military personnel; \$116.09 billion for operation and maintenance programs; \$76.8 billion for procurement; and \$71.65 billion for research and development programs. H.R. 2863 fully funds a 3.1 percent military pay raise.

H.R. 2863, which passed the House of Representative late yesterday is one of eleven appropriations bills that assign discretionary funding for each of the federal government's agencies. Once the Senate passes its version of the bill, the House and Senate will meet in conference to resolve differences between their respective recommendations.